

### **Tunbridge Wells Ladies I 0 Old Loughtonians 4**

Wells travelled to Old Loughtonians looking to put behind them their controversial first game of the season against St Albans.

Both teams sought to gain a rhythm on the difficult pitch. While Wells were working hard to close up and deny their opponents space and time on the ball, too often their own errors in possession allowed the hosts to break forward.

Loughtonians had several dangerous breaks into the Wells circle that failed to produce a finish. Meanwhile, Wells found it difficult to control the game against physical defensive work and it was from a loose pass that Loughtonians opened the scoring having capitalised on a hesitation in the visitor's back line.

Half-time came and went with Wells looking to consolidate. As the umpires began to crack down on Loughtonians' physical approach, Wells started to see the ball in more dangerous areas of the park. Another error in midfield allowed Loughtonians to break for a second goal and it was at this point that Wells kicked into playing with a higher tempo.

While the pressure exerted failed to produce any clear-cut chances, Wells were unsettling their opponents without finding the quality product that this league requires.

As the game wore on, Loughtonians' larger squad paid dividends as Wells grew tired and dropped back into their own half, where their hosts pressed the visitors into several errors that led to two late goals.

Player of the match: Lisa Fiddimore

### **Tunbridge Wells Ladies 3<sup>rd</sup> X1: 2 Ashford Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 0**

Tunbridge Wells Ladies 3<sup>rd</sup> X1 met newly promoted Ashford 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 in this Kent Div 1 match. Wells started strongly with penetrating play from Rachel Fox and good support play from Sasha Spink and Georgia Nokes. Ashford seemed surprised by Wells pace and quick passing and it wasn't long before a cross from Fox was met by Spink on the left post and put past the keeper. Play evened out and Ashford began to make more penetrations into the Wells half. An unfortunate kick from the Wells keeper gifted the ball to the Ashford centre forward and they equalised with a good strike.

Wells continued to press forward with man of the match Carolyn Pollard working hard in midfield to feed the ball to the front three. Great hassling play from the forwards forced errors from the Ashford defence and Wells were able to capitalise on this with another Spink goal.

The second half saw Wells defence under much greater pressure, but solid play particularly from Kelly Maywood and some great diving saves from keeper Maria Lambert kept Ashford at bay and guaranteed the three points for Wells putting them equal top of the league after two matches.

### **Tunbridge Wells Ladies IV 0 Folkestone III 2**

After the great cohesive game last week, the Ladies 4s were this week overwhelmed by a strong, well-trained vocal team. Folkestone played hard and had Tunbridge Wells on the back foot for most of the first half.

Coming into the second half a goal down, the 4s fought back. Megan Grist had an excellent game as goalie, deserving her Player of the Match award. The defence rallied and stuck to their players as the ball was pushed towards the opposition's goal, with forwards desperate to find the net. Every player played hard to achieve an equalising goal, but it was not to be. In the dying moments Folkestone came back with their second and final goal.

All credit to Tunbridge Wells for not giving up in this hard fought match. This was a good game and a few lessons have been learnt for future matches.

### **Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 3 Meopham 2**

After a narrow defeat last week, Wells were keen to earn some points. From the start Wells pressed forward and poured down on the opposition goal. Following a tinkering with the team set-up, Wells opened the scoring. Denise Holme received the ball just inside the circle. She poked it forward to Lucy Milson who burst free to beat the goalie. The second goal was beautifully constructed. Just inside their attacking half, right mid Tessa Harrison pushed the ball to winger Izzy Harrison. The pair zigzagged up the field to the circle where Milson was on hand to score her second. Meopham battled to clear the ball, Jess Begg and Chloe Jones were able to force Wells back into the attack.

Keen to put the game to bed, Wells appealed for a short early in the second half. The umpire played advantage and Milson sneaked in to complete her hat-trick. Just as well the third was scored as Meopham came storming back. Countless attacks were staunchly defended by Krishna Shah, while at the back, Ellen Landolt, returned from Holland swept the ball away. In goal, Fi Speed was suddenly called into plenty of action and she had no blame in either of the Meopham late goals. As the whistle went there was a collective sigh of relief from the Wells players.  
Other Ladies results: 2s 1 Ashford I 1

### Grasshoppers 1 Epsom 0

It was a warm and balmy September afternoon when we gathered at our ground, The Nevill, for our first match of the season, away to Epsom. After not seeing each other for some months the usual pleasantries were exchanged:

'Are you still playing?'

'You seem to have put on a lot of weight'

'We heard that you were dead'

'Have you started to dye your hair (the remaining one) grey?'

Then there was the traditional viewing of holiday snaps, tans and new tattoos.

And so we set off to play Epsom who have been evicted from their grass pitch, we suspect for general unruly behaviour and failure to pay the rent. We therefore faced them on an unfamiliar surface that we were told is called AstroTurf.

The game set off at a cracking pace with Grasshoppers exerting all the pressure and getting in a couple of shots from Shimmel and Ghosley. On the few occasions that Epsom threatened our defence, marshalled by Athey, repulsed them. Hastings, who came through the whole game uninjured, put in some crunching tackles.

Then a pass from defence, Poulton to Bannerman, to Pelmore, to Shimmel and rounded off with a cracking shot and goal from Ghosley. 1-0.

Some tactical and personnel changes by our illustrious captain Burton, seemed to unsettle us.

We turned round and continued to dominate, their keeper pulled off some fine saves, but gradually the game swung their way.

More pressure, Crawford, (last seasons player of the year) in our goal kept them out.

The last quarter was all them, us defending in depth, the ball never going out too far, them coming back at us. But we held out. 1-0 to us, They peppered our goal at the end, but without success (I wanted an Epsom Salt reference but could only do the other condiment!).

And so after a rather fine tea, baked potatoes, meat pie and juice, we wended our way, through the autumnal lanes to the Nevill.

Apologies to Ivory, Adams & Stebbing for not mentioning them earlier, they too played brilliantly.

So, next week, at home, what does the future hold for us?

Other Mens results: 1s 2 South Saxons 5, 3s 0 Brom Becks 5's 1, 4s 4 Brom Becks 6s 1